

Serial No.: 10/728,617
Examiner: E. Keaney
Title: LIGHT-EMITTING UNIT AND ILLUMINATOR UTILIZING THE SAME

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1, 4 and 8 have been editorially revised. Support for the revision to claim 1 can be found in the specification on page 12, line 26 to page 13, line 5, page 15, lines 3-10, and in Figures 5, 6 and 12, among other places. Claim 4 has been editorially revised to reflect the revision to its parent claim 1. Claim 8 has been editorially revised. Claims 21 and 22 have been added and correspond to original claims 6 and 7. Claims 13-20 are allowed. Claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1-5 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Miyashita (US Pub 2003/0141813). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 requires that a reflecting layer is arranged between each lens and a corresponding one of the first and second wiring patterns, and the reflecting layer is formed with an opening in which the corresponding one of the first and second wiring patterns is partially exposed. The reflecting layer therefore, is provided separately from the first or second wiring pattern, which would not necessarily provide good light reflection. The reflecting layer advantageously reflects stray from a light emitting element toward the lens surface to contribute to an increase in luminance.

Miyashita discloses electrode layers 7a, 7b (wiring patterns) which themselves have portions 5a, 5b located in the recesses 3 and that function as reflecting surfaces 5. In fact, this structure is a claimed essential feature for the invention of Miyashita (see claim 1). Miyashita does not disclose or suggest a separate reflecting layer as required by Applicants' claim 1.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Miyashita. Claims 2-5 and 9-12 are also allowable over Miyashita since they depend ultimately from claim 1.

Serial No.: 10/728,617
Examiner: E. Keane
Title: LIGHT-EMITTING UNIT AND ILLUMINATOR UTILIZING THE SAME

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Miyashita as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Thompson et al. (US 5,986,401). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 8 requires a black layer covering only a part of the substrate around the periphery of the lens along the edge of the substrate. Thompson et al. merely discloses a black absorber BA behind a display TD.

For at least these reasons, claim 8 is patentable over the cited art. Claim 8 is further patentable over the cited art since claim 8 depends directly from parent claim 1. Thompson et al. does not remedy the deficiencies of Miyashita. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' primary attorney-of-record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.



Dated: 12/19/05

Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
LARSON, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902-0902
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902
(612) 455-3800

By: _____

Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DPM/dnh